

## Hoke County Natural Area Inventory

### FORT BRAGG WOLF PIT CREEK

**Site Significance:** state

**Size:** 440 acres

**USGS Quadrangle:** McCain

**Ownership:** US Dept. of Defense

**SIGNIFICANT FEATURES:** Wolf Pit Creek supports an excellent collection of Sandhills natural communities, including high quality Sandhill Seep, Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill, and Xeric Sandhill Scrub. Two Federally Endangered species occur here: red-cockaded woodpecker (*Picoides borealis*) and roughleaf loosestrife (*Lysimachia asperulifolia*). Two other plants are Federal Species of Concern: bog spicebush (*Lindera subcoriacea*), and Sandhills pyxie-moss (*Pyxidanthra barbulata* var. *brevifolia*).

**LANDSCAPE RELATIONSHIPS:** Wolf Pit Creek Significant Natural Heritage Area is located at the western edge of Fort Bragg, between Firebreaks 15 and 18. King Road is the eastern boundary and the Bragg property line is the western. Nijmegen Drop Zone lies just to the southeast, JSOC Bluffs SNHA just to the north, and Central Rockfish Creek SNHA just to the northeast.

**SITE DESCRIPTION:** Most of the eastern half of the natural area occurs along moderately steep slopes located between Wolf Pit Creek and a high xeric ridge to the south. The slopes are dissected at several points by steep narrow Streamhead Pocosins which drain to the north into the broad Small Stream Swamp community along Wolf Pit Creek. Typical dry upland Sandhills vegetation dominates the slopes between the Streamhead Pocosins. Xeric Sandhill Scrub dominates the western half of the natural area, between Firebreaks 15 and 17 eastward to Wolf Pit Creek. Much of this section was clearcut sometime in the last twenty years, but it still supports an intact xeric herb community, including a large population of Sandhills pyxie-moss. A sandstone outcrop/Sandhill Seep community, located to the north of Firebreak 17 and slightly west of Wolf Pit Creek, is also included in this area. This SNHA could be expanded to the east if the Streamhead Atlantic White Cedar Forest community along Wolf Pit Creek east of King Road improves in quality.

**MANAGEMENT AND PROTECTION:** Severe roadbed erosion occurs along the long and steep sections of the firebreak roads in the western section of the natural area. This erosion causes siltation in tributaries of Wolf Pit Creek. Many Streamhead Pocosins have fire plowlines along their perimeters, causing some erosion along the slopes and disrupting the nutrient and water dynamics of the ecotonal areas. Plowlines should be revegetated.

**NATURAL COMMUNITIES:** Xeric Sandhill Scrub (Sandhills Variant), Pine/Scrub Oak Sandhill (Mixed Oak Variant), Streamhead Pocosin, Sandhill Seep, Coastal Plain Small Stream Swamp (Blackwater Subtype).